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International Court of Justice

H0927 – 0001

H0927-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH, 1946.

4 June, 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

Colonel A. M. S. Neave
Mr. ~~McIlraith~~ McILWRAITH

THE GESTAPO

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours.)

JOHANN HEDEL, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q What is your name?

A Johann Hedel.

Q Will you repeat this oath after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

COLONEL NEAVE: You may sit down. Dr. Weisgerber, may we have your statement of what you intend this witness to prove?

DR. JOSEF WEISGERBER: With this witness, I want to show the organization duties and activities of the Technical Information Branch of the Gestapo. This witness has information concerning the organization, duties and activities of this group in Bavaria.

COLONEL NEAVE: What is he going to prove?

DR. WEISGERBER: He will prove that the men of the Technical Communication Branch, as well as the Information Branch, had no executive powers at all with the Gestapo.

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COLONEL NEAVE: You are relying on Paragraph 61 of the order?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes, 61 and 62.

COLONEL NEAVE: Alright, ~~go ahead~~.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q What is your occupational background?

A In 1926, I entered the Bavarian state police after my training. In 1928 I entered the Information Intelligence Branch of the Police. I was given the Police Headquarters in Munich, the Technical Information duties, until the 1 April, 1935. I was a member of the Bavarian Police from 1 April,1935 to 1 August, 1942. I was a member of the Regular Police and on 1 August, 1942, I was transferred to the Technical Information Branch of the Gestapo in Munich.

Q Were you a member of the DNSAP or one of its organizations?

A No, I asked to enter the party in April, 1942, but was not accepted.

Q Were you a member of the SA or SS?

A No.

Q Did you receive any equal ranks of the SS or SD?

A No, I was never on active duty and therefore it was not necessary.

Q What was your official and your personal highest office/rs while you worked with the Gestapo in Munich?

A There is a difference between the technical higher officers and the personal higher officers under whose supervision I was working. For the Intelligence Communications, the chief of the Communications system of the Ministry of the Interior was my superior. He was not under the chief of the Security and Regular Police. His duty was to equip the police with communication equipment, such as telephones, teletypes, radios, etc. For this duty, there was in the Reichs Security Main Office, 40 ordinary police. The superior office was Inspection N and for the Security Police it was Amt N. It was the

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duty of Amt. N of the Security Police, which means the Gestapo, to equip the Security Police with communications equipment, that is the Gestapo Criminal Police and the administration.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Weisgerber, is he referring to Bavaria only in describing this organization?

DR. WEISGERBER: Up to now, he has given more or less the table of organization for the entire Reich, but only of the very highest offices. From now on, all his information will be concerning Bavaria.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q Would you tell us the personnel chain of command you were under?

A I would like to finish my explanation of the technical chain of command. I will continue answering the last question. The Amt. N had a large central office of the communications system, they had in there the employees and one of those employees was I. For all technical work, I was directly under Amt. N. I am not talking about the personnel chain of command. As Technical Secretary at the state police in Munich, I was under the chief administration officer for my pay, disciplinary measures and all other administrative duties.

COLONEL NEAVE: I understood ~~you~~ the interpreter to speak ~~now~~ of the "personal" chain, do you mean "personnel" chain.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q Go ahead.

A This administrative officer did not have the right to give me any orders concerning my work. The Gestapo chief also did not have the right to give me any orders.

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Q What were the qualifications one had to have to be employed in the Technical Communications group?

A In talking about the technical chain of command, one has to make a difference between the technical employees and the regular employees that were used to operate the equipment. The main qualifications for the job as technician was the technical knowledge necessary, such as is required by industry and the German Reichspost. Secondly, the exact knowledge of all rules and regulations of the Reichspost concerning the operation of communication circles. Third, a knowledge of all administrative rules and regulations. Fourth the knowledge as to the operation and rules of the particular station to be taken care of. For the personnel working in this communication center, these regulations were not required, for instance, for the teletype men, certain qualifications for his typing was required.

Q In other words, membership ~~to~~ of the DNSAP or one of its organizations was not necessary?

A No.

Q How many people were employed with the technical ~~secretary~~ section of the Technical Communications Branch at the Gestapo Headquarters in Munich?

A There was one technical supervisor, four to five telephone operators and six to eight teletype operators.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think we had better get on to the question as to whether these offic~~e~~ials had executive powers in the Gestapo as that is the question in which we are interested. These details regarding the personnel are too narrow and I must ask you to get on to the original point that you are trying to prove.

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DR. WEISGERBER: I realize that the technical personnel of the communications branch of the Gestapo was rather small. I am going to ask the witness exactly how many men were employed in the Gestapo for technical communications duty.

COLONEL NEAVE: I suggest that you ask him that now and then get him to say what they did, Give us the estimated total number employed.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q What can you say about the strength of the Technical Communications Branch in the entire German Reich?

A I cannot give any exact number. I can only give you an estimate as a result of my general knowledge, I will leave that for the Security Police. There were about 25 technical employees that were technicians, about 15 that were preparing for a technician's occupation.

COLONEL NEAVE: Is this in the whole of Germany?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q You can continue.

A There were about 20 helpers, that is mechanics, also before the war there were about 400 teletype operators and 200 to 250 telephone operators. In arriving at these numbers, one must know that part of these installations were operated by the Order Police, part by the Reichspost and part by private companies - not every Gestapo headquarters had its own technical personnel that belonged to the Security Police.

Q Did the Technical Command employees have any other duties, did they have any executive powers whatsoever?

A No. It was strongly forbidden to use technical personnel for any other duties.

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Q Was there any special secret requirement for the Technical Communications employees?

A No, for the technical personnel in the Gestapo had the same requirements that you have in other organizations and groups, that is for instance in the Order police, the army or other organizations.

Q The technical personnel was not concerned with purely police matters. Were they?

A No. It was only our duty to send on or route all messages that for instance were sent out bythe executive powers or by the administration to the Ministry of the Interior or any other organizations where they were supposed to go.

Q Did not the Technical Communications personnel have the possibility to receive or get information, to listen in on information that was sent by wire, wireless or through the teletype through the tapping of wires?

A No. Wireless did not go through the Gestapo, it went through the Order Police. It was forbidden to listen in on telephone conversations, besides the Technical Communications Branch had an apparatus which prevented listening in. In the teletype field, it was due to the constantly changing personnel. There was 24 hours duty and the personnel was unable to get a clear picture of the goings on due to their limited time on the machines. The work that a teletype operator had to do was so heavy that he did not have time to consider or think about single telegrams.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Weisgerber, it seems to me that your point has been sufficiently ~~proven~~ covered regarding the executive powers of this department. Do you have any more questions?

DR. WEISGERBER: To make the entire matter completely clear, I would like to ask two more questions.

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COLONEL NEAVE: You may proceed.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q Were the Technical Communication employees of the Gestapo required to listen in or supervise the telephone conversations of others or third persons?

A No. The Technical Communications Branch had nothing at all to do with the supervision of Communications.

Q What did the employees of the Technical Communications Branch have to do with the SD?

A The Technical Communications Branch employees had nothing at all to do with the SD. The SD is a party formation and therefore was within the party communications system. There were strong orders by the Reichs Finance Minister and the Reichs Minister of the Interior that public communications equipment was not to be used for party use.

DR. WEISGERBER: I have no further questions.

COLONEL NEAVE: Is there any cross examination?

CROSS EXAMINATION.

BY LT. HARRIS:

Q I would like to ask one or two questions. Is it right that one of the reasons why wireless was used by the Order Police and not by the Gestapo is because of the fact that there was greater security in teletype communications?

A In the beginning, the Gestapo used the wireless system of the Order Police. From about 1933 until 1937 or 1938 the Security Police went over to the teletype net as the teletype net has the advantage and it cannot be listened in on nor can it be tapped.

Q Many of the dispatches that were sent out over the teletype from the Gestapo Regional Office were highly classified?

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A If they were not concerned with secret state matters, they were sent out in the regular language without any classification.

Q You, as a supervisory technician in communications, necessarily acquired knowledge of the secret and confidential communications that were sent out by the teletypes?

A No, these secret messages never were any direct or complete orders. They only contained certain points, which one could not understand by reading one message, but only when one knew the entire picture and background of the messages.

Q In any case, you were in a position, as supervisor, to obtain information concerning secret data and simplify classified messages?

A The main duty of the Technical Communications Supervisor was to supervise the operation of the communications equipment and only in the second place to concern himself with the various orders and messages that were sent out.

Q What instructions did you get from the head of the Gestapo in Munich concerning the security you should maintain concerning matters which you learned of through transmissions by the teletype?

A I did not receive any special orders by the Chief of the Gestapo in Munich, however, the measures concerning all employees of the communicatios branch required us to keep all messages secret. There was a law in the German books against the spreading of information or informing anyone of such secret messages.

Q The reason that you were subject to the disciplinary control of the Gestapo Chief in Munich was so that the Gestapo would have jurisdiction over you in case you violated any of the security rules, was it not?

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A No, I said already that for the Gestapo the same rules and regulations pertained as in the Order Police or in any other communications branch.

Q If you violated one of these confidences, you would have been punished by the Gestapo, of which you were a member, would not not?

A I don't know of any such case, but I would suppose if a person had revealed any such secret messages or secret communications, that he might have been sentenced or tried by the Gestapo.

Q You knew that orders for protective custody were frequently transmitted from RSHA headquarters down to the Gestapo Office in Munich. Did you not?

A Yes. If the objectives in Munich asked if protective custody should be extended over a certain person, the answer came back from the RSHA in very short terms.

Q You knew that these orders were sending people to concentration camps, did you not?

A Yes, that was checked with custody and nothing illegal could be established at all. Brent Harris.

COLONEL NEAVE: We previously asked the prosecution, as far as possible, to limit the cross examination to the matters which Defense ~~Council~~ Counsel stated at the beginning he wished the witness to present. This witness was to be asked questions about the executive powers that his branch had with the Gestapo. I think the cross examination should relate to the matters, which the Defense ~~Council~~ Counsel said he would try to bring out.

LT. HARRIS: I have no further questions.

DR. WEISGERBER: I would like permission to ask one further question, due to the questioning of the Prosecution.

COLONEL NEAVE: Go ahead.

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BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q Is it true that in some places the communication duties in the Gestapo headquarters was performed by members not of the Gestapo, but members of the police and even at times men not even members of the police? Did these people do the same work as the Gestapo members in some of the installations?

A Yes, that depended upon the question as to what place the Gestapo was occupying. For instance, in Nurnberg, the Gestapo was used in the police headquarters and therefore connected with the telephone network of the police. Therefore, all telephone communications were done through members of the Order Police and all technical communications were done by members of the Order Police. The teletype operators belonged to the Security Police, that is they worked for both the Security and Criminal Police. The teletype system here in Nurnberg was supervised by the Reichspost.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think that is sufficient. We are finished with this witness.

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANN HEDEL, taken on 4 June, 1946; 1000 to 1100 Hours.

Alice Meehan
Reporter (pp.

Reporter (pp

CERTIFIED TO: am S Neave Lt Col
Commissioner

I. D. McGraith
Commissioner

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH, 1946.

4 June, 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

Colonel A.M.S. Meave
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THE GESTAPO

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours.)

JOHANN HEDEL, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q What is your name?

A Johann Hedel.

Q Will you repeat this oath after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

COLONEL MEAVE: You may sit down. Dr. Weisgerber, may we have your statement of what you intend this witness to prove?

DR. JOSEF WEISGERBER: With this witness, I want to show the organization duties and activities of the Technical Information Branch of the Gestapo. This witness has information concerning the organization, duties and activities of this group in Bavaria.

COLONEL MEAVE: What is he going to prove?

DR. WEISGERBER: He will prove that the men of the Technical Communication Branch, as well as the Information Branch, had no executive powers at all with the Gestapo.

COLONEL MEAVE: You are relying on Paragraph 6 (1) of the order?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes, 6 (1) and C (2).

COLONEL MEAVE: Alright.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q What is your occupational background?

A In 1926, I entered the Bavarian state police after my training. In 1928 I entered the Information Intelligence Branch of the Police. I was given

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the Police Headquarters in Munich, the Technical Information duties, until the 1 April, 1935. I was a member of the Bavarian Police from 1 April, 1935 to 1 August, 1942. I was a member of the Regular Police and on 1 August, 1942, I was transferred to the Technicd InformationBranch of the Gestapo in Munich.

Q Were you a member of the NSDAP or one of its organizations?

A No, I asked to enter the party in April, 1942, but was not accepted.

Q Were you a member of the SA or SS?

A No.

Q Did you receive any equal ranks of the SS or SF?

A No, I was never on active duty and therefore it was not necessary.

Q Who were your official and your personal highest officers while you worked with the Gestapo in Munich?

A There is a difference between the technical higher officers and the personal higher officers under whose supervision I was working. For the Intelligence Communications, the chief of the Communications system of the Ministry of the Interior was my superior. He was not under the chief of the Security and Regular Police. His duty was to equip the police with communication equipment, such as telephones, teletypes, radios, etc. For this duty, there was in the Reichs Security Main Office, 40 ordinary police. The superior office was Inspection N and for the Security Police it was Amt N. It was the duty of Amt N of the Security Police, which means the Gestapo, to equip the Security Police with communications equipment, that is the Gestapo Criminal Police and the administration.

COLONEL MEAVE: Dr. Weisgerber, is he referring to Bavaria only in describing this organization?

DR. WEISGERBER: Up to now, he has given more or less the table of organization for the entire Reich, but only of the very highest offices. From now on, all his information will be concerning Bavaria.

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BY DR. MEISGERBER:

Q Would you tell us the personnel chain of command you were under?

A I would like to finish my explanation of the technical chain of command. I will continue answering the last question. The Amt N had a large central office of the communications system, they had in there the employees and one of these employees was I. For all technical work, I was directly under Amt N. I am not talking about the personnel chain of command. As Technical Secretary at the state police in Munich, I was under the chief administration officer for my pay, disciplinary measures and all other administrative duties.

COLONEL MEAVE: I understood the interpreter to speak of the"personal" chain, do you mean "personnel" chain.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY DR. MEISGERBER:

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Q In other words, membership of the NSDAP or one of its organizations was not necessary?

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A No.

Q How many people were employed with the technical section of the Technical Communications Branch at the Gestapo Headquarters in Munich?

A There was one technical supervisor, four to five telephone operators and six to eight teletype operators.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think we had better get on to the question a s to whether these officials had executive powers in the Gestapo as that is the question in which we are interested. These details regarding the personnel are too narrow and I must ask you to get on to the original point that you are trying to prove.

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COLONEL NEAVE: Is this in the whole of Germany?

DR. WEISBERGER: Yes.

BY DR. WEISBERGER:

Q. You can continue.

A. There were about 20 helpers, that is mechanics, also before the war there were about 400 teletype operators and 200 to 250 telephone operators. In arriving at these numbers, one must know that part of these installations were operated by the Order Police, part by the Reichspost, and part by private companies - not every Gestapo headquarters had its own technical personnel that belonged to the Security Police.

Q. Did the Technical Command employees have any other duties, did they have any executive powers whatsoever?

A. No. It was strongly forbidden to use technical personnel for any other duties.

Q. Was there any special secret requirement for the Technic al Communications employees?

A. No, for the technical personnel in the Gestapo had the same requirements that you have in other organizations and

[illegible]stance in the Order police, the army or

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other organizations.

Q. The technical personnel was not concerned with purely police matters. Were they?

A. No. It was only our duty to send on or route all messages that for instance were sent out by the executive powers or by the administration to the Ministry of the Interior or any other organizations where they were supposed to go.

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CROSS EXAMINATION.

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Q. I would like to ask one or two questions. Is it right that one of the reasons why wireless was used by the Order Police and not by the Gestapo is because of the fact that there was greater security in teletype communications?

A. In the beginning, the Gestapo used the wireless system of the Order Police. From about 1933 until 1937 or 1938 the Security Police went over to the teletype net as the teletype net has the advantage and it cannot be listened in on nor can it be tapped.

Q. Many of the dispatches that were sent out over the teletype from the Gestapo Regional Office were highly classified?

A. If they were not concerned with secret state matters, they were sent out in the regular language without any classification.

Q. You, as a supervisory technician in communications, necessarily acquired knowledge of the secret and confidential communications that were

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sent out by the teletypes?

A. No, these secret messages never were any direct or complete orders. They only contained certain points, which one could not understand by reading one message, but only when one knew the entire picture and background of the messages.

Q. In any case, you were in a position, as supervisor, to obtain information concerning secret data and simplify classified messages?

A. The main duty of the Tehcnical Communications Supervisor was to supervise the operation of the communications equipment and only in the second place to concern himself with the various orders and messages that were sent out.

Q. What instructions did you get from the head of the Gestapo in Munich concerning the security you should maintain concerning matters which you learned of through transmissions by the teletype?

A. I did not receive any special orders by the Chief of the Gestapo in Munich, however, the measures concerning all employees of the communications branch required us to keep all messages secret. There was a law in the German books against the spreading of information or informing anyone of such secret messages.

Q. The reason that you were subject to the disciplinary control of the Gestapo Chief in Munich was so that the Gestapo would have jurisdiction over you in case you violated any of the security rules, was it not?

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Q If you violated one of these confidences, you would have been punished by the Gestapo. of which you were a member, would you not?

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Q You knew that orders for protective custody were frequently transmitted from RSHA headquarters down to the Gestapo Office in Munich, Did you not?

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COLONEL NEAVE: Lt Harris, we previously asked the prosecution as far as possible, to limit the cross examination to the matters which defense Counsel stated at the beginning he wished the witness to be present. This witness was to be asked questions about the executive powers that his branch had within the Gestapo I think the cross examination should relate to the matters, which the Defense Counsel said he would try to bring out.

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and all technical communications were done by members of the Order Police. The teletype operators belonged to the Security Police, that is they worked for both the Security and Criminal Police. The teletype system here in Nurnberg was supervised by the Reichspost.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think that is sufficient. We are finished with this witness.

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANN HEDEL, taken on 4 June, 1946; 1000 to 1100 hours.

Alice Meehan
Reporter (pp

CERTIFIED TO:

A. M. S. Neave, Lt.Col.
Commissioner

I. D. McIlwraith
Commissioner

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